

I support media diversity

Ref Docket No. 02-277

PLEASE RETAIN MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES IN PLACE - IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR DEMOCRACY TO PREVAIL.

These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. Most of what I find in the popular mainstream electronic media is right-wing views and propaganda. The Phil Donahue show on MSNBC was cancelled, not because it did not compete, but because it often aired views opposing the Iraq War and conservative ideology in general.

While there may be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become severely limited.

If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

David Varona
Palm Beach, FL